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- (i) said first end cap having an annular sealing region thereon; said annular sealing region comprising a soft, compressible polymeric material and having at least first and second stepped portions;
    - (A) said first stepped portion having an outermost dimension smaller than an outermost dimension of said second stepped portion;
  - (ii) said filter element first end cap including a rigid portion aligned with said first end cap annular sealing region;
  - (b) a housing; said housing including an outer surrounding wall having a first end and a first segment; said first segment:
    - (i) being spaced from and parallel to said outer surrounding wall;
    - (ii) being supporting by said outer surrounding wall in projection outwardly from said outer surrounding wall first end; and
    - (iii) having a rigid, inner, annular, sealing region;
  - (c) said filter element being removably oriented within said housing; said first and second stepped portions of said first end cap annular sealing region being compressed against said first segment inner annular sealing region to form a radial seal therewith and positioned between said end cap rigid portion and said first segment inner annular sealing region;
  - (d) an inner liner embedded in said first end cap and supporting said extension of media; and
  - (e) a plastic insert having a plurality of radially outwardly directed feet projecting therefrom;
    - (i) said insert being positioned with said radially outwardly directed feet being oriented adjacent to a first end of said inner liner and at least partially underneath said first end cap; and
    - (ii) said insert further being positioned with a perimeter portion thereof supported by said plurality of feet to project into an open internal volume defined by said inner liner.
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Please add new claims 35-40 as follows:

~~35.~~ <sup>14</sup> A filter element according to claim ~~24~~ <sup>13</sup> wherein:  
(a) said insert includes a surface portion with at least one free rise aperture extending therethrough.

~~36.~~ <sup>15</sup> A filter element according to claim ~~27~~ <sup>13</sup> wherein:  
(a) each one of said feet is secured to said perimeter portion of said insert by a flexible leg section.

~~37.~~ <sup>16</sup> A filter element according to claim ~~27~~ <sup>13</sup> wherein:  
(a) said filter media includes an extension of pleated cellulose fiber media.

~~38.~~ <sup>17</sup> A filter element according to claim ~~27~~ <sup>13</sup> wherein:  
(a) said filter element and said inner liner have circular cross-sections.

~~39.~~ <sup>18</sup> A filter element according to claim ~~28~~ <sup>17</sup> wherein:  
(a) said insert defines a central, circular aperture; said central aperture in said insert being smaller in diameter than a diameter of said inner liner.

~~40.~~ <sup>19</sup> A filter element according to claim ~~39~~ <sup>18</sup> wherein:  
(a) said feet are evenly, radially, spaced in projection outwardly from said perimeter portion of said insert. --

#### Remarks

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. The Examiner rejected claims 27 and 29-34 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by *Engel* '992. The Examiner allowed claims 15-21 and 23-26. Further, the Examiner indicated that claims 22 and 28 would be allowable if amended appropriately.

By this Amendment, Applicants have amended claim 22 in order to more clearly define the invention. Applicants have amended claim 27 to include the allowable subject matter of